Appl. No. 10/052,949
Reply to Office Action of June 18, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims:</u>

Claim 1 (original): A dried pet food comprising a matrix comprising a denatured protein source, a gelatinized carbohydrate source, about 2% to about 15% by weight insoluble fiber, a humectant in an amount sufficient for reducing brittleness of the matrix; and the dried pet food having a moisture content of less than 10% by weight.

Claim 2 (original): A dried pet food according to claim 1 which comprises about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the humectant.

Claim 3 (original): A dried pet food according to claim 2 in which the humectant is glycerin.

Claim 4 (original): A dried pet food according to claim 1 which comprises about 3% to about 10% by weight of insoluble fiber.

Claim 5 (original): A dried pet food according to claim 4 in which the insoluble fiber is a cellulose fiber.

Claim 6 (original): A dried pet food according to claim 1 which has a density of about 250 kg/m^3 to about 320 kg/m^3.

Claim 7 (original): A dried pet food according to claim 1 in the form of a cat kibble which has a length of at least 6 mm, a thickness of at least 6 mm, and in which the minimum distance from a center of gravity of the matrix to a surface of the matrix is about 3 mm.

Claim 8 (original): A dried pet food according to claim 1 which has a moisture content of about 3% to about 7% by weight.

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Claim 9 (previously presented): A dried pet food comprising a gelatinized matrix comprising a protein source, a carbohydrate source, about 2% to about 15% by weight of insoluble fiber, about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of a humectant, and a moisture content ranging from about 3% to about 7% by weight.

Claim 10 (original): A dried pet food according to claim 9 in which the humectant is glycerin.

Claim 11 (original): A dried pet food according to claim 9 in which the insoluble fiber is a cellulose fiber.

Claim 12 (original): A dried pet food according to claim 9 which has a density of about 250 kg/m^3 to about 320 kg/m^3.

Claim 13 (original): A dried pet food according to claim 9 in the form of a cat kibble which has a length of at least 6 mm, a thickness of at least 6 mm, and in which the minimum distance from a center of gravity of the gelatinized matrix to a surface of the gelatinized matrix is about 3 mm.

Claim 14 (original): A dried cat food kibble comprising a matrix comprising a gelatinized protein source, a gelatinized carbohydrate source, about 2% to about 15% by weight insoluble fiber, and a humectant in an amount sufficient for reducing brittleness of the matrix, the kibble having a moisture content of less than 10% by weight and a length of at least 6 mm, a thickness of at least 6 mm, and in which the minimum distance from a center of gravity of the matrix to a surface of the matrix is about 3 mm.

Claim 15 (original): A dried cat food kibble according to claim 14 which comprises about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the humectant.

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Claim 16 (original): A dried cat food kibble according to claim 14 in which the humectant is glycerin.

Claim 17 (original): A dried cat food kibble according to claim 14 in which the insoluble fiber is a cellulose fiber.

Claim 18 (original): A dried cat food kibble according to claim 14 which has a density of about 250 kg/m^3 to about 320 kg/m^3.

Claim 19 (original): A dried cat food kibble according to claim 14 into which a probe, having a contact area of about 1 mm^2 and operated at a speed of about 5 mm/s, penetrates into the matrix for a distance of at least 30% of the thickness of the matrix prior to breaking of the matrix.

Claim 20 (original): A dried cat food kibble according to claim 14 wherein the moisture content ranges from about 3% to about 7% by weight.

Claim 21 (original): A method of reducing calculus and plaque build up on a pet's teeth, the method comprising administering to the pet a dried pet food comprising a gelatinized matrix including a protein source, a carbohydrate source, about 2% to about 15% by weight of insoluble fiber, and a humectant, the pet food having a moisture content of less than 10% by weight and reduced brittleness.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 21 wherein the dried pet food comprises about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the humectant.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 22 wherein the humectant is glycerin.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 21 wherein the moisture content ranges from about 3% to about 7% by weight.

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Claim 25 (original): A method of reducing calculus and plaque build up on a cat's teeth, the method comprising administering to the pet a dried kibble which contains about 2% to about 15% by weight of insoluble fiber and a humectant, has reduced brittleness, a moisture content of less than 10% by weight, and has a length of at least about 6 mm, a thickness of at least about 6 mm, and in which the minimum distance from a center of gravity of the matrix to a surface of the matrix is about 3 mm.

Claim 26 (original): The method of claim 25 wherein the moisture content ranges from about 3% to about 7% by weight.

Claim 27 (original): The method of claim 25 wherein the dried kibble comprises about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the humectant.

Claim 28 (original): The method of claim 25 wherein the humectant is glycerin.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A dried pet food comprising a matrix comprising a denatured protein source, a gelatinized carbohydrate source, about 2% to about 15% by weight insoluble fiber, a humectant in an amount sufficient for reducing brittleness of the matrix; and the dried pet food having a moisture content ranging from about 3% to about 7% by weight.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A dried cat food kibble comprising a matrix comprising a gelatinized protein source, a gelatinized carbohydrate source, about 2% to about 15% by weight insoluble fiber, and a humectant in an amount sufficient for reducing brittleness of the matrix, the kibble having a moisture content ranging from about 3% to about 7% by weight and a length of at least 6 mm, a thickness of at least 6 mm, and in which the minimum distance from a center of gravity of the matrix to a surface of the matrix is about 3 mm.

Claim 31 (canceled)

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Claim 32 (currently amended): A method of reducing calculus and plaque build up on a cat's teeth, the method comprising administering to the pet a dried kibble which contains about 2% to about 15% by weight of insoluble fiber and a humectant, has reduced brittleness, a moisture content ranging from about 3% to about 7% by weight, and has a length of at least about 6 mm, a thickness of at least about 6 mm, and in which the minimum distance from a center of gravity of the matrix to a surface of the matrix is about 3 mm.

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